

THE
WORST'S LEVER,
OR,
Verses of Legend.

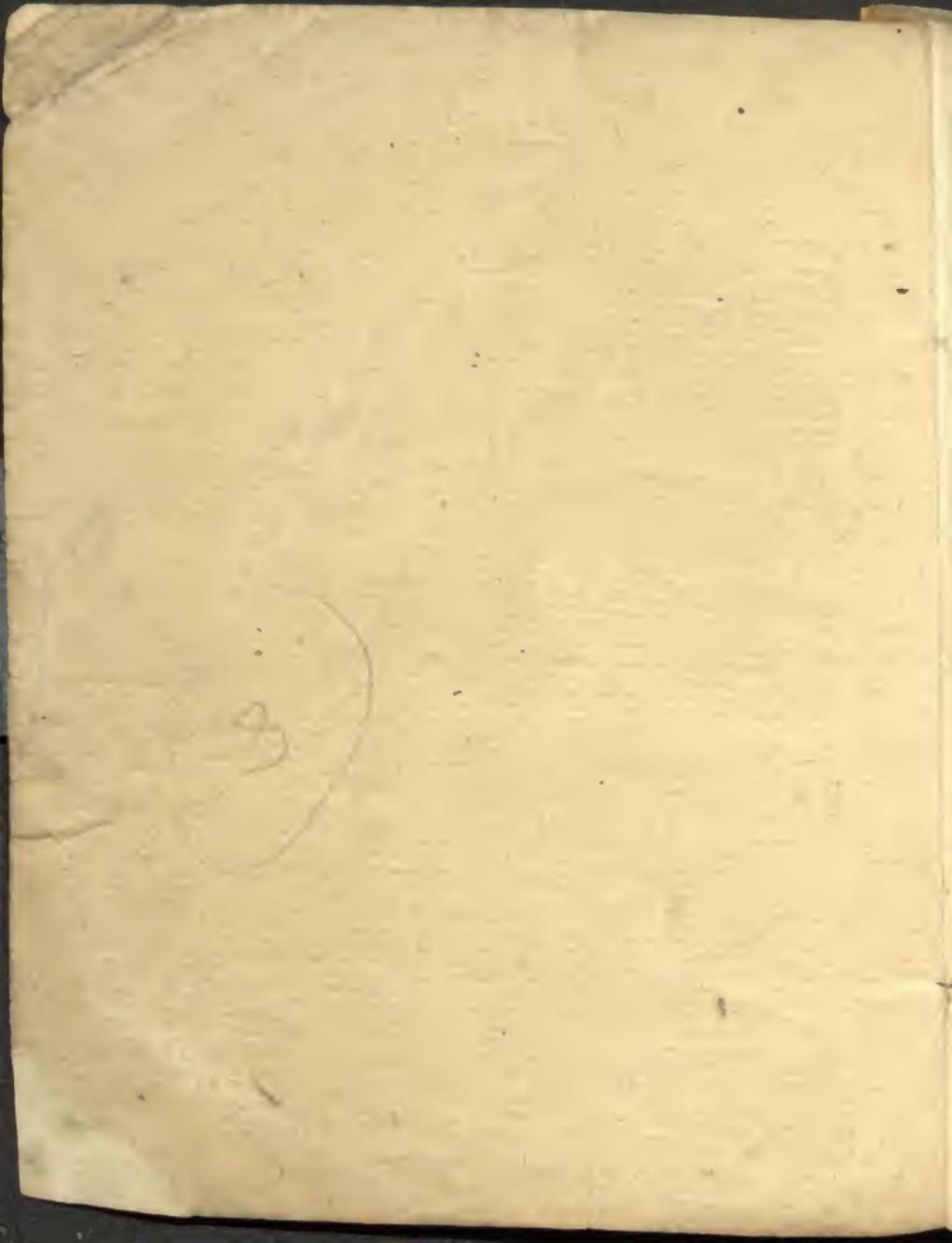
ILLUSTRATED WITH ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS.



LONDON:

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1808.



1225

The Court of Neptune



Pub. 1st Oct. 1808. by I. Harris, corner St. Paul's Church Rd.

THE
HORSE'S LEVEE,
OR
THE COURT OF PEGASUS.
INTENDED AS A COMPANION TO
THE BUTTERFLY'S BALL,
AND
THE PEACOCK "AT HOME."

ILLUSTRATED WITH ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS.

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THE
HORSE'S LEVEE,
OR
THE COURT OF PEGASUS.

SWIFT PEGASUS* flew from the luminous spheres,
Where his stars have so brilliantly shone many years,
And stopp'd near Parnassus†, to drink at the fount,
Which springs at the feet of that favourite Mount ;
Where the Muses‡ and Roscoe enliven'd their hall,
With “ *the Grasshopper's Feast, and the Butterfly's Ball* ;”

* The flying Horse, one of the celestial Constellations.

† A mountain in Greece, called by the ancient poets, the seat of the Muses.

‡ The Muses are fabulous persons, who were supposed to be patronesses of all the Arts and Sciences ;—they consist of nine in number, and from thence are frequently called by Poets *the Nine*.

And a lady, delighted through nature to roam,

Describ'd the grand fêté of "the Peacock at home."

" Us Quadrupeds," said he, " seem strangely neglected,

" Whilst Insects and Bipeds are highly respected.

" Will my elegant cousins who skim o'er the plain,

" Be so highly affronted, and never complain ?

" The poets of Greece and of Rome knew our worth,

" And gave us precedence through Héaven and Earth.

" I wonder then classical Roscoe should sing,

" Of contemptible beings who creep, buz, and sting ;

" Whilst we should have offer'd a subject sublime,

" For his voice to transmit to the end of old time.

" Be it known, that a Quadruped Levee I'll hold,

" And expect it attended by timid and bold."

On the heights of Parnassus, the steed took his station,
 From whence he survey'd all the works of creation ;
 And call'd his grand officers down from the skies,
 Where they often had pleas'd the Astronomers' eyes.

Bright ARIES, ♌ first from the Heavens descended,
 As first in the Zodiac, so he attended ;
 He acted as *Chancellor*, during his stay,
 Which only consisted of one summer's day.
 The BULL, ♂ did not like to be left in the lurch,
 So he follow'd—and he was made—*head of the church.*

♈ The Ram, one of the Constellations of the heavens, and the first sign of the Zodiac.

♉ Taurus, the Bull, another celestial Constellation, and second of the Zodiac.

Bright **LEO**, ♌ came next, he abandon'd the place,
 Which he fill'd in the Heavens with splendour and grace;
 And at Court, as *Commander in Chief*, took his post,
 Of an army compos'd of a Quadruped host.
 Brisk **CAPRICORN**, ♑ Gentleman Usher was made
 To the Bowers of Love, where he often had stray'd.
 The **WOLF**, △ as *High Constable*, acted his part,
 So fam'd for ill-manners, and hardness of heart.
URSA MAJOR, □ immediately stept from the Pole,
 And on coming to Court, was made *Groom of the stols.*

♌ The Lion, the fifth Constellation or sign of the Zodiac.

♑ The Goat, the tenth sign of the Zodiac.

△ Lupus, the Wolf, one of the southern Constellations, but invisible in England;—it will be found on the celestial Globe, a little below Libra, the Balance.

□ The great Bear, one of the Northern Constellations near the Pole, and visible every clear starry night in the year.

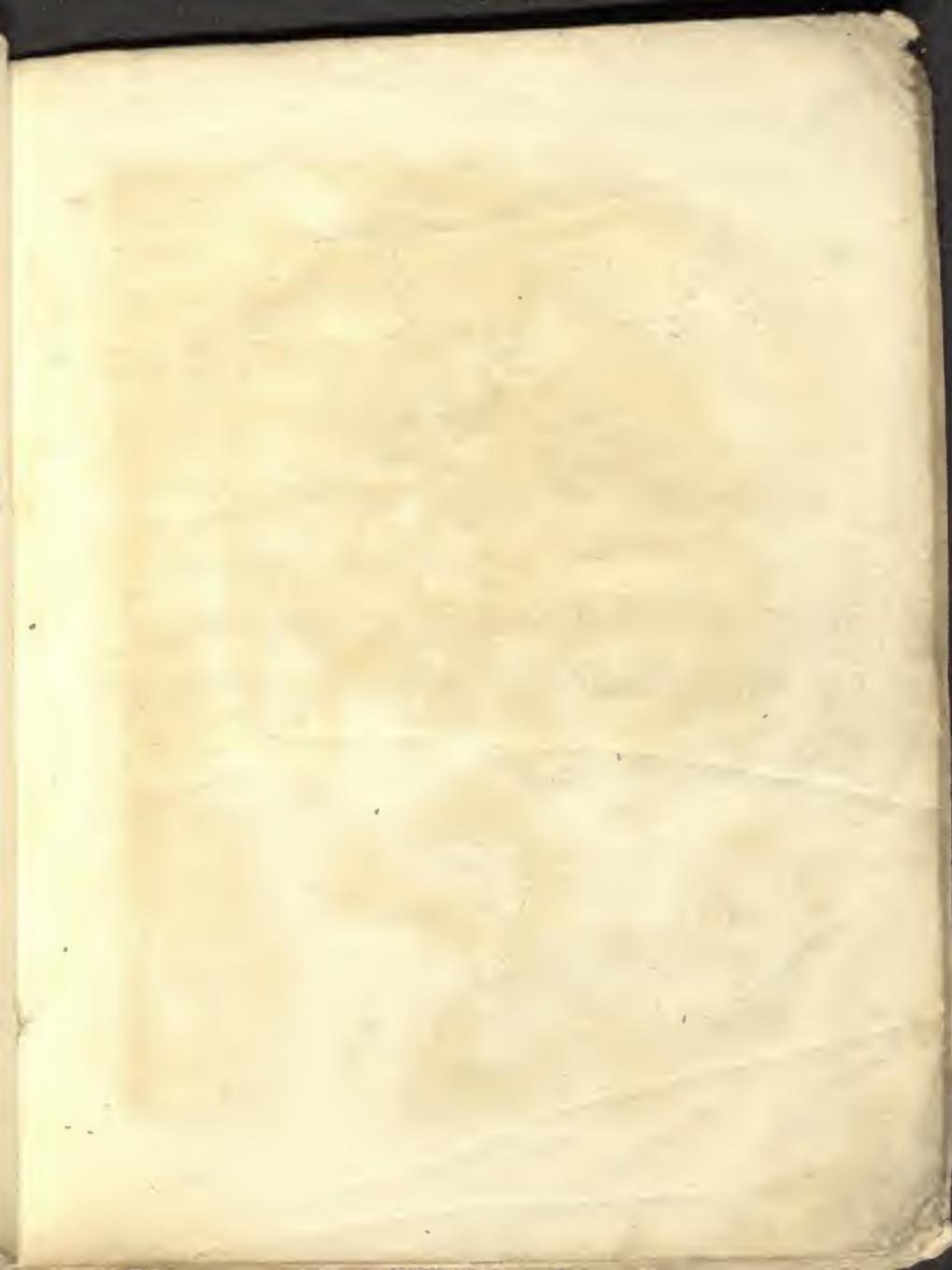
Fierce DRACO* came with him, but he could not find
Any office at Court, which would please his high mind ;
So he swiftly return'd, like an ill-natur'd beast,
And no one regretted his absence the least.
Bright CANIS†, whose stars so resplendently shine,
Slyly crept to review the fam'd seat of *the Nine* ;
Where PEGASUS gave him an office of state,
The duties of which I shall shortly relate.

Thus the Quadruped nobles who shine in the skies,
(Or else the old Poets have told many lies),

* The Dragon, another Northern Constellation near the Pole.

† The Dog, a Constellation which contains *Sirius*, or the Dog Star, the brightest in the heavens, and which may be seen in the South-eastern quarter every clear night during the Autumn and Winter.

Were assembled to view their Parnassian abode,
Whilst the Muses diverted the Court with an ode.
Their Concert resounded throughout the creation,
From system to system—from nation to nation,
It invited the four-feeted race to resort
To the palace where PEGASUS held his grand Court ;
And promis'd such viands as nature produces,
Rich fruits, which contain the most luscious of juices.
~~Whilst the burthen of ev'ry sweet chorister's song,~~
Encourag'd the weak, and commanded the strong.
The first who attended this kind invitation,
Was a STEED of great fame from an Arabic nation,
Who flew swift as lightning penetrates space,
And at Court met a friend, who had just won a race.





"These Hero's grand Chamberlain canis prevent
To Pegasus."

p. 9.

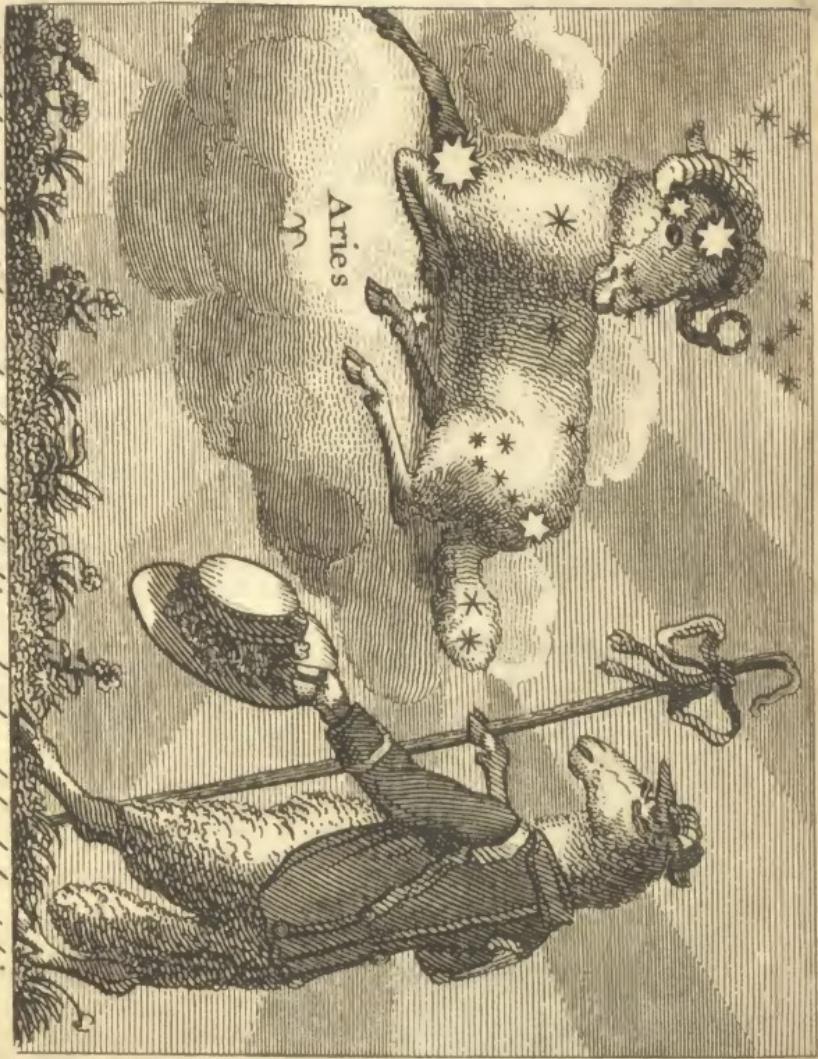
Pub. by T. Harris. Corner St. Paul's Church Ya Mar 1. 1810.

These heroes, grand Chamberlain *Canis* presented
To PEGASUS, who with much ease complimented
His cousins, on all the exploits they had done,
And recounted the whole of the battles they won,
At Newmarket, Chester, and Doncaster races,
And Epsom and Ascot, and many more places.

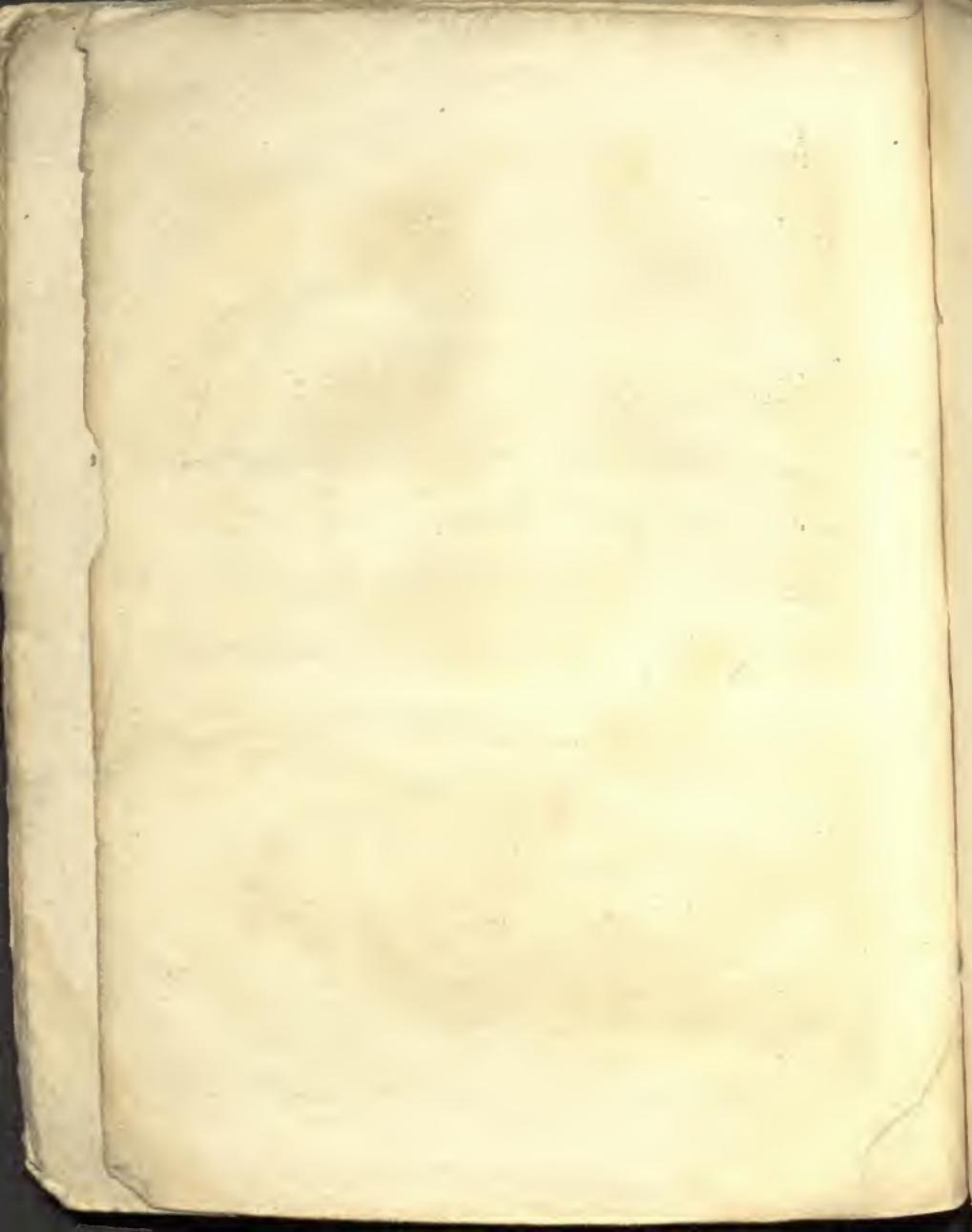
A GREYHOUND, and SPANIEL and MASTIFF came next,
And to *Canis* and PEGASUS paid their respects ;
Whilst the HARE and the RABBIT, the FOX and the DEER,
Attended the Levee unconscious of fear.

A HOG and a BADGER, a FERRET and CAT,
Walk'd socially in with a MOUSE and a RAT.
The MOLE too attended, the SQUIRREL hopp'd after,
But the HEDGEHOG's appearance occasion'd much laughter ;

His jacket conceal'd both his legs and his face,
And no one would own him as one of their race ;
Having roll'd himself up, he afforded much sport,
'Till his hide, rough and prickly, was kick'd out of court.
Adorn'd with a dress which his shepherd had lent him,
A SHEEP ask'd his cousin, the *Ram*, to present him
To PEGASUS, who was much pleas'd with his merit,
Commended his virtues and meekness of spirit.
A GOAT coming next, to his cousin apply'd
For the loan of a cloak, to conceal his rough hide ;
But *Capricorn* told him he need not be dress'd,
Though he look'd very shabby it must be confess'd.
Next follow'd a MULE, and an Ass who look'd big,
Because he was dress'd in a magistrate's wig.



"Adorned with a dress which his shepherd had lent him
A sheep asked his cousin the Ram to present him." p.o.







"But Capricorn told him he need not be afraid."
p. 10.





"Thus the Bull in a jacket & mousie is astir'd."

p.m.

The BULL went to *Taurus*, and told him a story,
How much he rejoic'd at his dear Britain's glory ;
Recounted how Nelson had vanquish'd his foes,
And lamented his death as the greatest of woes.
But this consolation pervaded his mind,
That a great many heroes were still left behind,
Who would fight in defence of so glorious a cause,
As that of their King, and their Country and Laws.
Thus the BULL, in a jacket and trowsers attir'd,
Was presented to PEGASUS as he desir'd.

The LION, the LEOPARD, HYENA and TIGER,
Attended this Court from the banks of the *Niger** ;

* The Niger, a river of Africa, supposed to be one of the largest in the world, but, running through an uncultivated country, inhabited only by negroes and wild beasts, its extent is unknown to us.

With the MONKEY, RHINOCEROS, PANTHER, and APE,
And the CAMEL who shows his inelegant shape.

From the banks of the *Ganges**^{*}, the ELEPHANT came,
So strong and so wise, and so faithful when tame.

The BEAR and the ELK came from Sweden and Russia,
And the WOLF from a land which was formerly Prussia.

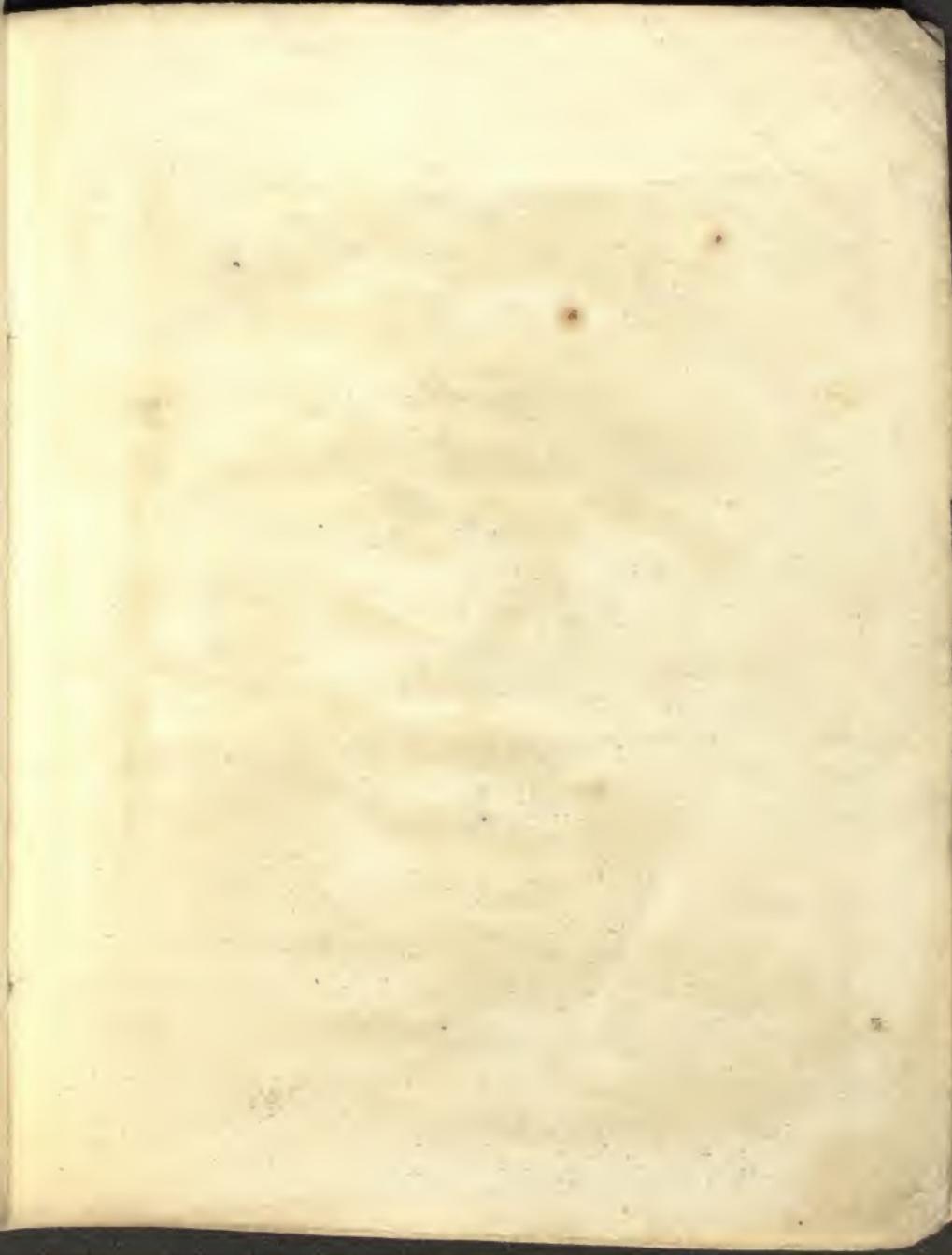
The BUFFALO, ANTELOPE, LYNX, and some others,
All travell'd together as friendly as brothers.

Some came from *La Plata*[†]'s magnificent banks,
And some at *Lake Huron*[‡] had often play'd pranks.

* The Ganges is a large river of Hindostan in Asia, at the mouth of which is situated the presidency of Bengal in the East Indies.

† The river La Plata, in South America, on the banks of which Buenos Ayres is situated.

‡ Lake Huron, a large lake in the interior part of North America.





*"The Greyhound then socially haled with a hare,
And the sheep play'd at romps with a Wolfhound a Bear."
p. 13.*

In short, ev'ry species of Quadruped came,
Whethcr little or large, whether furious or tame.
Dame nature then bounteously open'd her store,
And supplied every beast, 'till it wish'd for no more,
With such fruits as Parnassus alone could produce,
And to those who were thirsty, gave pine apple juice.
The GREYHOUND then socially talk'd with a HARE ;
And the SHEEP play'd at romps with a WOLF and a BEAR.
Whilst the LION was graciously pleas'd to survey
The whole Quadruped host which acknowledg'd his sway.
The feast being over—the concert began,
By the Muses who sing so much sweeter than man.

Each Muse gave a *Solo**¹, more softly divine,
 Than e'er was attempted except *by the Nine* ;
 And these were succeeded by charming *Duettos*,
Glees follow'd, and then some delightful *Quartettos*.
 Each chorus, with grandeur was highly replete,
 And no mortal before ever had such a treat.
 The audience enraptur'd, their pleasure express'd,
 And thus the great PEGASUS jointly address'd.
 “ Oh Prince, pray delay thy return to the sky,
 Let us feel those delights, or condemn us to die ? ”

* A *Solo*, is a song sung by a single person, a *Duetto*, a song for two voices, a *Glee*, for three voices, and a *Quartetto*, for four.

“ ‘Twere a worse ill than death to command us to go,
“ Then let soft undulations incessantly flow,
“ Let the rich fount of harmony furnish each strain,
“ And let us on Parnassus for ever remain?”

“ Ye children of earth,” the great PEGASUS sung,

(None but musical accents escap’d from his tongue)

“ If, after the twilight has shed its last ray,

“ The Quadruped nobles should venture to stay,

“ The stars would want lustre to shew you the roads,

“ Which ye all must pursue to your earthly abodes.

“ Ye mortals indeed never know what ye want,

“ And ye ask me a favour which no one can grant.

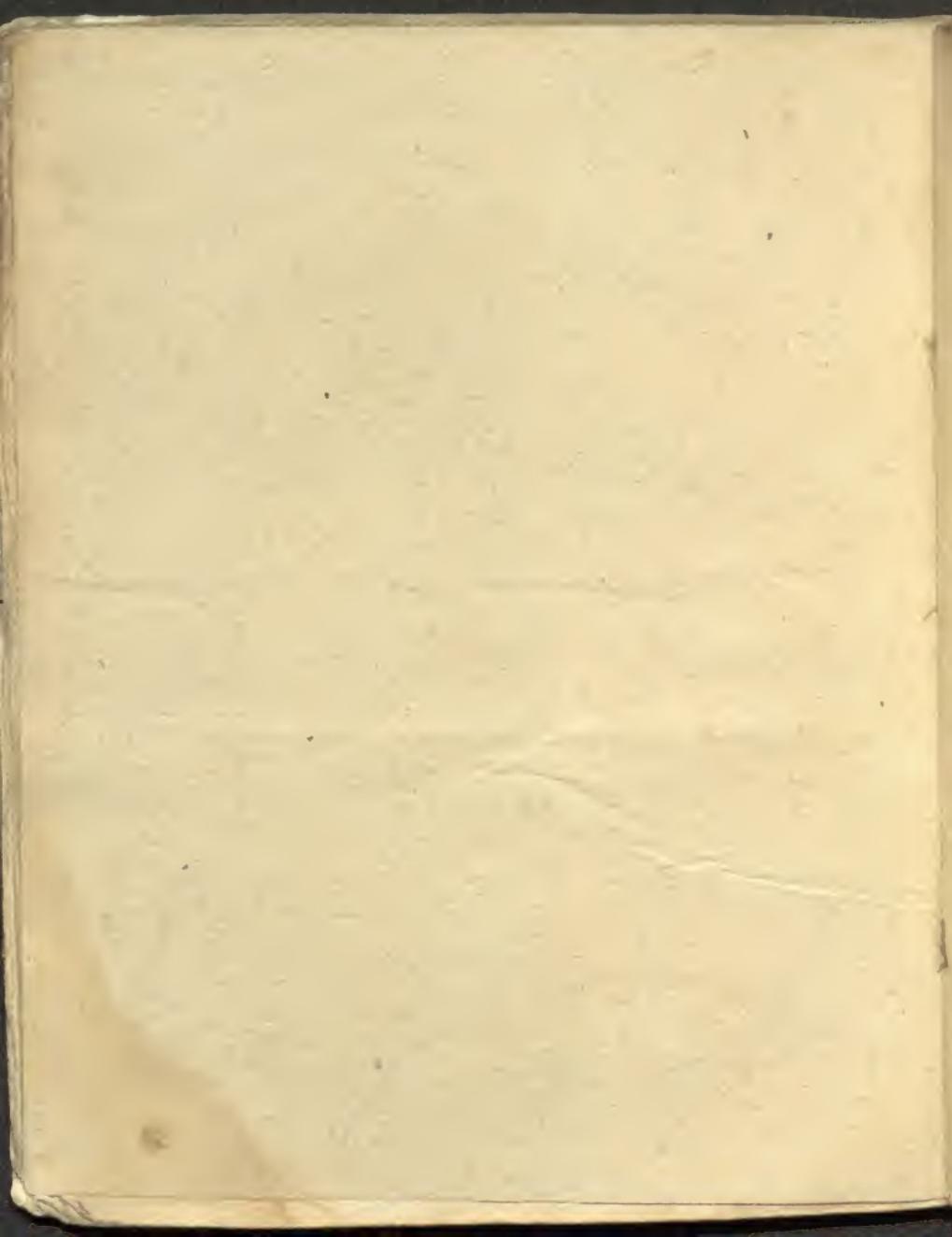
“ Depart,—be contented with what ye have seen,
“ Inform your companions with whom ye have been ;
“ Tell the Insects and Bipeds what joys ye have known,
“ And how much this grand Levee exceeded their own ;
“ And, in order to screen every poet from blame,
“ The Muses themselves shall transmit it to fame.”

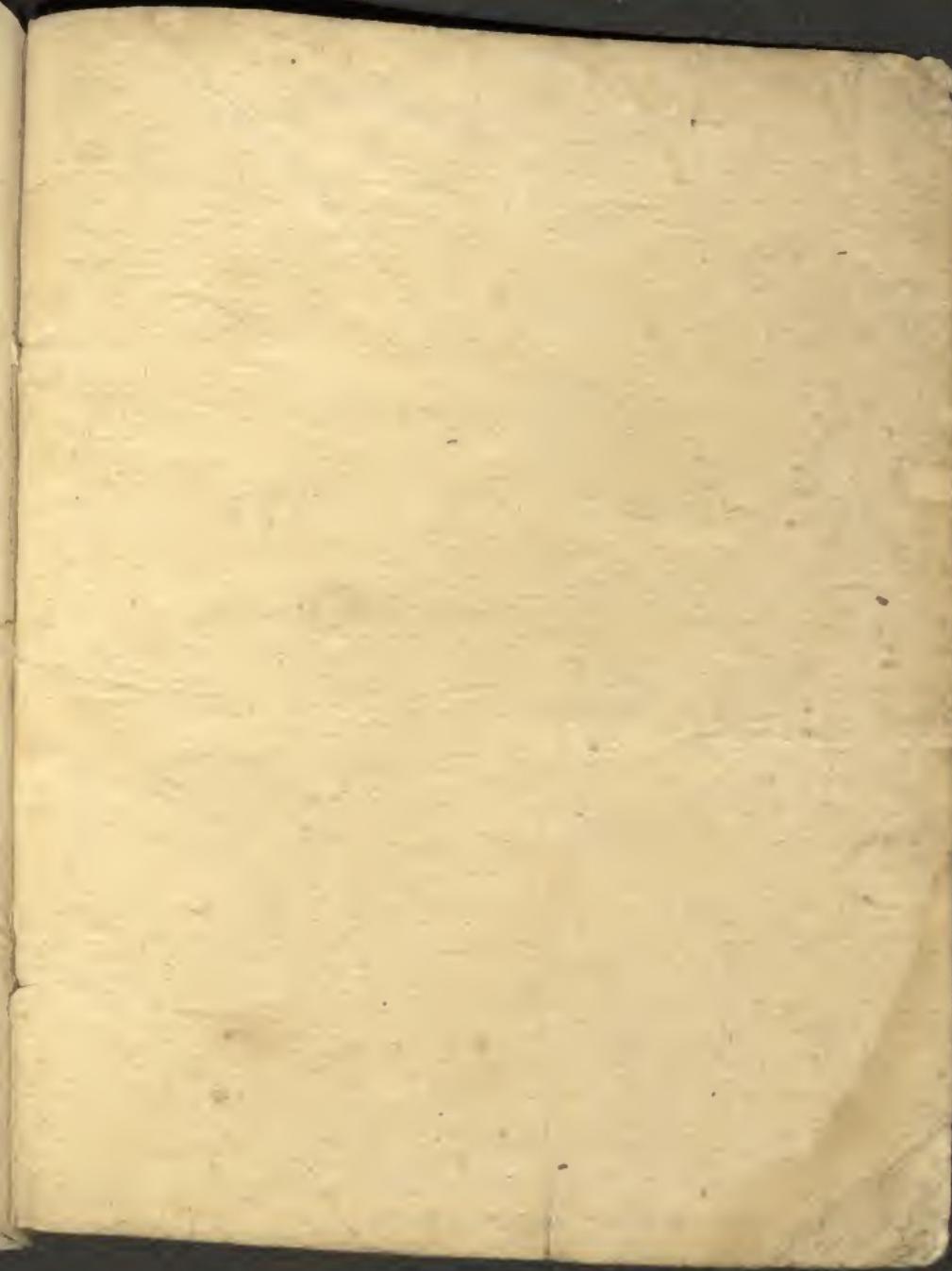
FINIS.

Ursa Major



"Depart be contented with what ye have seen."
the great Venerable King "
p.16.





C. HARRIS

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